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An humble

PROPOSAL

That may be a better Defence to

GIBRALTAR,

A Security for all our Shiping that Trades in the *Straights*, and entirely check and restrain the Growth of Highwaymen, Foot-Pads, House-breakers, Shop lifters, Incendiaries and Others, that are guilty of enormous Crimes, rendering them useful, that in case of a War, may be a Hundred Thousand a Year in this Kingdoms way, and to the great increase of our Home Trade.

By JOSEPH DAVIES.

CHESTER:

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An humble

PROPOSAL, &c.

It is moſt humbly propos'd,

THAT if his Majeſty and the Nation will be pleas'd to allow of a few Gallies to be built at, or ſent to *Gibraltar* or *Port Mahone*, to be man'd with Convicts, ſuch as are caſt for Tranſportation; the bare apprehenſion of being made a Galley Slave, will ſtrike ſuch a Terror into the Minds of thoſe Villains, ſuch as Highwaymen, Foot-pads, Houſe-breakers, Shop-lifters, Pick-pockets and Incendiaries, in threatning to Murther the Perſons, or to burn their Houſes, which has ſuch ſhocking Reflections, and are Crimes of ſo black a Nature, that the very mentioning of them, has been terrifying; and theſe, who like Locuſt, ſwarms in our Roads and and Streets, and infects all Places to ſuch a Degree, that honeſt People are not ſafe either at Home or Abroad; but when thoſe vile People ſhall know, to their dread, that inſtead of Tranſportation, they ſhall be ſent to the Gallies without any hopes of Freedom till their Sentence is expired, it will certainly put a ſtop to Thieving and Villainy, for it will cauſe ſuch Terrors upon their Minds, of the Rigour, that thoſe *Paterroons*, or Officers of the Gallies exerciſes over thoſe unfortunate People, who for the Puniſhment of their Crimes are thus dealt with, and could not be reſtrain'd by any milder METHODS.

This

This with all humble Submiſſion, ſeems a far better way than to take away the Lives of ſo many hale young Men, that are cut off before they have lived out half their Days, that by this Propoſal may be ſaved, and brought to a Sence of their paſt Follies, in following of an extravagant vicious courſe of Life, and may convince them and others of the real Advantages of an honeſt ſober way of Living, that they may become ſerviceable to their Country in their ſeveral Trades and Capacities.

And as they have by their repeated Robberies and other Villainies, wrong'd the Nation in general; they may be made uſe of for a National Service, which in ſome meaſure may attone for the Miſchiefs they have done in the courſe of their paſt Lives.

For in caſe of a War with any Nation that Trades in the *Straights*, we having of *Gibraltar*, can with our Gallies, in Conjunction with our Men of War, command all Ships paſſing or repaſſing in thoſe Seas, rendering their Trade difficult and uncertain to them, and with many Advantages to us of this Kingdom: For as their is a Current ſets always through the Gut, if it proves calm, which is frequent in thoſe Parts, that Ships that have been coming through, have drove paſt *Gibraltar*, as high as *Malaga*; and others that have been coming down, have met with theſe Calms, and Ships of great Value, which could not fetch into the Bay, and ſo expoſed to great Dangers, and ſome that have been took by the *Spaniards*, who always kept lurcking with their Gallies on purpoſe for thoſe Oppertunities, that our Cruiſers could not come to aſſiſt them, and in ſight ſometimes of *Gibraltar*, which is the higheſt Provocation, and has been done, to the unſpeakable loſs of Trade, the Ruining of abundance of Merchants and Sailors; but theſe Evils will be ſufficiently made up, and provided againſt by our having of Gallies added to our Men of War, that it may be a Hundred Thouſand a Year in this Kingdom's way, for then not a Ship ſhall be ſuffer'd to paſs, either coming in or going out, but we may ſpeak with them BLOW HIGH BLOW LOW.

I ſhall further Appeal to all Captains of Men of War, how ſerviceable they may be made uſe of in Engagements to Tow out of the Line all diſabled Ships, and to bring others in their Stations, and if once that we have Gallies at *Gibraltar*, it will awe the *Algerines* and *Sally Rovers*, that in my Memory, have ſo oft play'd the Rogue with us, in making War and Peace with us at their Pleaſure, and our rich Preſents and Gallies will intirely prevent any Trade by Sea to old *Gibraltar*, and their other Harbours, with their ſmall Veſſels that went along Shore in the laſt Rupture, and brought them freſh Supplies and Stores, that our Men of War could not prevent, it being not ſafe to venture ſo cloſe in with the Land.

And I ſhall farther offer, that by ſending theſe Convicts to our Plantations and Collonies, we find by woful Experience, that it does not Anſwer the good Purpoſes for which that Law was Enacted; it neither puts a ſtop to, or leſſons the Complaints of the poor Sufferers; for the Change of the Climate makes no Alterations either in their Manners or Morals, for the rude and diſorderly Practices of thoſe vile ungovernable People in their Behaviours, has made *Jamaica* and other Parts of the *Weſt India* Iſlands entirely refuſe taking them, and no doubt but other Places will be forc'd to follow their Examples, for their wicked Inclinations and ill habits are ſtill the ſame, which hurries them to all kinds of Miſchiefs in thoſe Places where they are ſent to, and their Baniſhment which was deſign'd as their Puniſhment, they make uſe of to repeat all their former Villainies, giving ill Examples to their Youths, often perſuading their Negroes to rob their Maſters, and run away with them; this being the ſole Nurſery for Pirates, and readily entertain'd by the *Spaniſh Guarde le Coſtas*, they being throughly qualified for ſo vile, baſe and deſperate an employ, that the poor Sufferers that have gone in danger of their Lives, and been ſadly abuſed in their Perſons, and have had their Subſtances taken from them, and the overſetting of their Voyages by theſe Savages in the Shapes of Men, have often reflected on thoſe that gave them theſe Oppertunities (that they did not hang them at firſt out of the way) theſe vile People making a Redicule at Tranſportation,

portation, telling one another that it is but a Trip over the *Herring-Pond*, their Paſſage being paid, *D——ming their precious Bloods if that Country ſhall hold them long*, which is the higheſt Contempt of that Law, and it ſeems to Buoy them up in their vile Practices, where they have freſh Oppertunities given them to act their roguiſh Villainous Parts, but it may be hop'd, that our Government will take what has been ſo ſincerely offer'd for a publick Good into their Conſiderations, to prevent theſe Evils for the *Time* to come.

But how long theſe People ſhall ſerve, I will not offer to name, but leave that to the Wiſdom and Prudence of the *Law-makers* and their Judges, to the Nature of the Crimes they are convicted of.

I ſhall beg Leave to Anſwer briefly to ſome of the ſtrongeſt Objections that may be brought againſt this Propoſal.

Obj. *It may be a great Expence to the Nation in Building of Gallies.*

I Anſwer that by what it has coſt the Government between the Rewards of thoſe that have been capitally convicted, and the four Pounds four Shillings for ſuch Numbers that have been tranſported ſince this King came to the Crown; but that it may be made appear, it will far out Ballance the Charge of building a ſufficient Number of Gallies; and if I might offer further without diſobligeing of any Captain of a Man of War or others, that the Charge of one Third Rate in fitting her out for the Sea, by a modeſt Computation, will far ſurmount the Coſt of theſe Gallies; but I humbly beg, that I may be underſtood, that I am not for leſſening of any one Ship in his Maieſty's Royal Navy, which is ſo much the Glory and Defence of theſe Kingdoms, and the Terror of the whole World; but that Gallies may be added as *Tenders*, or as ſhall be thought moſt for Service to them

Obj. *How many Gallies will be ſufficient to employ ſuch Numbers that are ſent away from Time to Time.*

Anſwer, Eight may be enough, four or ſix at *Gibraltar*, the other at *Port Mahone*, as ſhall be thought moſt for-

for Service, every Galley to employ 312 *Men*, ſo that I humbly conceive, by what ſhocking Terrors it may cauſe on the one Hand, and the ſo ſurely ſecuring them on the other, putting it out of their Powers to return back till their Sentence is expir'd, as ſeveral has done, giving themſelves fictious Names, and to different Places where they were tranſported from, ſtill continuing in thoſe abominable Practices, for which they were at firſt caſt for Tranſportation, and ſome that have appear'd bare-faced, in open Defience to Law and Juſtice, that have been took and executed, ſo that by this Propoſal, they will be reduced to ſuch ſmall Number, more than ever yet could be done by DEATHS or BANISHMENT.

And it is plain, that we have had more robbing in *England* in one *Month*, than is in *Italy*, *Spain* and *Portugal* in Twelve *Months*, and 'its thought it is owing to thoſe Countries having of Gallies, putting it out of their Powers to play at FAST and LOOSE.

Obj. *That this is offer'd againſt a free People.*

Anſwer, I humbly conceive, thoſe Perſons who are convicted by Evidence, of breaking the King Laws, have loſt all Pleadings of their Freedom, and is entirely at the Laws and King's Diſpoſal, whether for Life, Death or Baniſhment, or longer Impriſonment or Liberty, and Tranſportation was thought to be as great a breaking into the Rights and Freedoms of theſe People, as Gallies is now offer'd, and Tranſportation was at firſt well deſign'd for a National Service, tho' of late Years, it has proved the Reverſe; now if they are ſent to *Gibraltar*, they may be well ſecur'd and employ'd, that they nor their old Companion in Sin, cannot Boy themſelves up in running away at Pleaſure.

Obj. *That ſome Men would rather chuſe Death than ſuffer themſelves to be thus confined.*

Anſwer, It is the unhappy Temper of ſome Men, that they never was, or deſired to be made uſefully Good, or morally Honeſt; for their exorbitant Humours, which admits of no Bounds, when that comes

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to have a Reſtraint put upon it by the juſt Methods of the Law, it either flings them into thoſe vile wild Reſolutions, that had always been their Directors to chuſe Death rather then to undergo theſe gentle Severities, or elſe it ſo Diſpirits them by a ſullen change of their Minds, that they would rather chuſe Death in all its hedious Forms, than be brought under any Subjection like ſome Creatures that I have ſeen in *Virginia*, when firſt caught, wrangles with their Bridle and Maſters, and endeavours to be their own Executioners, but by degrees, are brought of great Uſe and Service, and ſo may they be made to be ſerviceable to God and their Country, and run wild no longer.

The main Objection that can be brought againſt this Propoſal, is, that as it is Peace, we have no occaſion for Gallies, and ſo we don't no how to employ theſe Convicts.

I Anſwer, As all wiſe Parents provides the Rod, and has it ready to make Uſe of when Neceſſity requires it; and as his Majeſty, Lords and Commons, are the Nations Parents, they are not to depend upon being always in Peace with *France* and *Spain*, and ſome others that are our Rivals in many Branches of Trade in the *Mediterranean*, and how induſtrious the *Spaniards* are at this Time in fortifying *Cabrita Point* and the Bay of *Gibraltar* againſt any Rupture, and it may be hop'd, that our Government will be as thoughtful and induſtrious to promote Things for a publick Service, as *Spain* is, and no doubt but that Gallies will fully Anſwer to what has been propos'd, and be as great a Thorn in the Eyes of any Nation with whom we may have Diſputes, as any one Thing we can do to our farther Preſervation of Trade, and as to employing them; their is an abſolute Neceſſity for the Building of a Mole or Harbour, that will be ſeveral Years in Building; but when finiſh'd, it will protect our Shiping from the *Spaniſh* Forts, and be a Place of Security from the Events of hard Gales of Wind; and that Fort that *Spain* is Building at the Head of the Bay, if ever we ſhall have any Miſunderſtanding with them, will render the Bay of very little Uſe to us, and expoſe

poſe our Shiping to a great many Dangers, in forcing them to Anchor in thoſe Depths of Water that is not ſafe to Anchor in; but in Caſe of great Neceſſity, now a Place to be built, that ſhall contain about 200 Sail of Ships, it will be a Place of Safety for us, and diſappoint all the Views that *Spain* can have in Building thoſe Forts in the Bay.

Now if theſe Convicts, as has been made appear, are not of any Service to the Places where they are ſent to; but inſtead of that, ſent to *Gibralter*, and ſome to *Port-Mahone*, they may be employ'd, tho' in times of Peace, in Building the ſaid Place and other neceſſary Fortifications as may render thoſe Places impragnable, and ſave the Government a Million of Money.

I would beg leave, humbly to offer ſome few ſhort Hints why we ſhould not part with *Gibralter*.

For *Spain* now begins to ſee the Worth of it, by the Loſs of it, and the Uſe we make of it, and if once we part with it, *Port Mahone* they will ſoon be Maſters of; and in keeping of thoſe Places, we have a Harbour and Store-houſes of our own, at that Diſtance, where we can ſhelter, clean and refit our Ships without being beholden to any other Nation.

And if once we part with it, we ſhall be under an abſolute Neceſſity in keeping a Squadron of Men of War in the *Straights*, at a vaſt Expence, beſides hazards to protect that Branch of our Trade from all Nations, who will ſoon fall out with us, eſpecially the Turks, who are an unſteady People in their Treaties, and no longer Friends than you have a ſuperior Power to command them, and they will ſoon break Peace with us, take our Shiping, and carry our Countrymen into Slavery.

And thoſe who through State Policy, are now our Friends and Allies, will not then value us (and under the Roſe) its thought would rather ſee that Fortreſs in any bodies Hands then ours.

And if any other Nation ſhould become Maſters of thoſe Places, but God forbid they ever ſhould, they would make us pay for going through the *Straights* Mouth, all one as we do at our Toll Gates, which will not agree with the Honour of our *Engliſh* Nation,

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as being always ſtiled Maſters of the Seas, and ſo bring a Yoke upon us, that we nor our Children are able to bear, and our Fathers would have made them to a trembled to have mention'd to them.

Now I beg leave to farther offer, That if we will be ſending People over to our Plantations and Collonies, which may be to the great increaſe of Trade, let us prevent the Rotten from going, which will preſerve the Sound; and as we have great Tracts of Lands in the *Amarican* Parts, and its thoſe Countries that has lifted up *Spain*, *Portugal*, *France*, *Holland* and *Great Britain* to their preſent Height; *Great Britain* having many Millions of Acres of good Land unimprov'd for want of People, and by ſending thoſe Felons, it diſcourages honeſt People from going; and as thoſe Countries does produce many beneficial Commodities that we of this Nation wants, which might employ a many thouſands of Families, and may be the happy Means to make a greater Conſumption of our home Manufacturies, that all Trades will be the better for it.

Now, as by a long Peace, we are over ſtock'd with People in *England*, it is plain, that ſeveral Families are brought to very great Difficulties to get a Living, ſo that if their were proper Encouragements, that our uſeleſs People were tranſplanted, it would prevent ſuch Numbers of People, who for want of the common Neceſſaries of Life, turns Thieves, Whores, Night-walkers, Forgers, Sharpers, Smuglers, Receivers, Procurers, Bauds, Bunters, Gypſies, Fortune-tellers, Inſolvent Debtors, Pariſh Poor, and common Beggars.

So that if they were to go to our Collonies, where they may both help themſelves, and be able to pay their Debts, rather then to ſuffer their Children to go begging, themſelves to ſculk from Place to Place, or elſe to lye rotting in Jails, ſo ſhocking to human Nature, and it would provefar better for them to go to *America* to live quietly and happily there, then to continue hear Poor, Miſerable and Diſpiſed; notwithſtanding the fooliſh Fearfullneſs that ſome may poſſeſs their Minds in going Abroad.

For now they will be no longer Burthenſome to us, a trouble to themſelves, a Nauſence to the Places where they inhabit, for they will be put in a Condition to live as well as we do ourſelves, they becoming Cuſtomers to us for our Product, and we to them for theirs, ſo that the mutal Trade will tend very much to the Benefit of both.

So that if our uſeleſs ſtragling Poor, that has no ſettled Place of abideing, and ten thouſand of them does not conſume in a whole Year a hundred Pounds worth of Cloaths, but runs in honeſt Peoples Debts, and goes round the Countries impoſing on thoſe well inclin'd charitable People by falſe Paſſes, as Pretenders by loſs of Fire, Shipwreck. hard Rents, loſs of Cattle, Decay of Trade, or Surety-Ship, or the like: Now if theſe People was to go to our new Settlements with ſome Things to begin the World with, that they might be no more counted as Vagrants, or uſeleſs People, being Burthenſome to Pariſhes, giving Juſtices of the Peace and other inferiour Officers abundance of Trouble; but by theſe Propoſals, they will be put upon a Footing to do good for themſelves, and ſo to become ſerviceable in their Days and Generation.

POSTSCRIPT.

Courteous READER,

AFTER ſeveral Years Obſervation of the Situation and Strength of *Gibraltar*, and the Glory and Happineſs that we of this Nation has in being Maſters of ſuch an important Fortreſs, and by adding of Gallies, we may entirely command the Trade in the *Straights*, allowing to all Nations juſt ſuch a Share of Trade as we pleaſe.

And when I began to write about this important Subject, which I have laid down in the ſhorteſt Method I could, having more Reaſons to offer, that will protect all Perſons at home, of what Rank or Degree ſoever

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from the Inſults of Thieves, and be the happy Means ſaving of many Lives and Ships. I do aſſure you, it was not out of Vanity to be thought an Author or to have my Name in Print; I had no ſuch Views but being a Midſhipman on board the *Kinſail* and *Oxford* Men of War, under the Command of the Right Hon. the Lord *Vere Beauclerk*, and talking of theſe Things to ſeveral Maſters of Men of War, and Commanders of Merchants Ships, they importuneing me to give them a Copy of what I had wrote, I comply'd with their Requeſts, never deſigning to proceed any further; but coming to *England*, and talking about the preſent Affairs, I ſhow'd ſome Gentlemen what I had wrote, and they never ceaſing asking for a Copy of it; but finding I was engageing myſelf to write more than my Inclinations or Time would allow, I offer'd to get ſome few printed.

And theſe Gentlemen ſtill prompting me to go on, and by their repeated Perſwaſions, that Things of this Nature, for ſo general and publick a Good, could not fail of meeting with a generous and national Encouragement; and I hope, that private Gentlemen Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen, that lives remote from the Sea, and may have no Dealings that way, yet will readily agree that this Propoſal is deſign'd for the good of every Body.

But I being wholly a Stranger to any great Man, is the only Reaſon why I take this laborious Method of tireing myſelf, in hopes that I might meet with ſome true Patriots of their Country, whoſe Power and Authority may be the Means of getting theſe my humble Propoſals prefer'd to the Conſideration of his Majeſty and both Houſes of Parliament.

But as I have not where with to ſupport the Charge of going through with theſe my Reſolutions, in getting it prefer'd at the next Seſſions of Parliament without your chearful Aſſiſtance, and I do aſſure you, whatever you in your Goodneſs and Wiſdom ſhall contribute towards the ſaid Coſt, if it is ever ſo ſmall, it ſhal be carefully and frugally laid out for thoſe goods Ends

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and Purposes as proposed, and I humbly beg Leave to subscribe myself a Contributor, and a hearty well Wiwer for the Publick Good, tho' I have taken the labouring Oar.

I have fixt the Map to this Proposal, to give the cleareſt Apprehenſions of the Policy of *Spain*, in building their Forts; and by the little prick'd Lines in the new Mole, is the deſign'd Work, that I above every thing will ſtrive to promote, and that we cannot be without, for the Safety of all our Ships that puts into the Bay, and Poſterity will ever own their Obligations to thoſe who are the Promotors of ſo great a piece of Service to our *Straights* Trade, and put ſuch a Baulk on the *Spaniards*, who thought to have had the ſole Command of it, and by a Galley towing in of a Ship, is to ſhew the Method how ſhe may be brought out of the Current clear out of Gun Shot from any of the ſaid Forts: If there needs any other Explanation, or you are pleas'd to make any other Objections, I ſhall be ready with the greateſt Pleaſure, to ſatisfie the Curious, who deſires to be better inform'd.

JOSEPH DAVIES.

FINIS.

THE EXPLANATION OF THE MAPP.

A. THE Ships going the Straits Mouth, *B.* is the Bay of *Gibraltar*. C. is a Gally towing in of a Ship clear out of Gun-shot, from any of the *Spanish* Forts, *D.* is the Figures that shows where and how many Fathoms of Water you have in the Bay, *E.* is *Gabrita* Point, where the *Spaniards* are building a Fort with a mischeivous Design, that our Ships will be forc'd to keep at a further Distance, more in the Current of the Gut, that if they have not a fair Wind to run in, the Current will hurry them past the Bay, *F.* is old *Gibraltar*, where the *Spaniards* have a large Town, *G.* is a small Island where the *Spaniards* have built a strong Fort of 12 heavy Cannon that commands that Side of the Bay *H.* is the Highland that goes into the Country of *Spain*. *I.* is the *Spaniards* New Fort, that gives us so much uneasiness, and well it may, for it commands that part of the Bay as laid down in the Mapp, where the two Ships Rides, and so they will render the Bay of little Use to us, *K.* is the Circumvention Wall that goes a cross the Low-land, to cut of all Communication from *Gibraltar*, *L.* is the Prince and Princes Batteries

terſes and *Willis*'s Battery, that ſtood all the *Spaniards* firing, and now is ſo well fortified that our Men can ſtand to their Guns under cover Boom proof, *M.* is the Town-Church and Hoſpital, *N.* is the old Mole where Veſſels Rides, *O.* is the new Citidel, *P P P.* is the Baſtons and Forts all along to *Europa Point*, Q. is the new Mole, *R.* is the prick'd Line the deſigned Work, that I above every thing elſe ſtrives to promote, and that we cannot be without, and when finiſh'd, will be clear out of Gun ſhot from the *Spaniſh* Forts, and be a ſafe Harbour for all our Ships that puts into the Bay, *S.* is the Signal Houſe, where there is a look-out kept that gives notice to the Town, by hanging out upon a Pole as many large Balls as they ſee Ships a coming either from the Eaſtward or the Weſtward, *T.* is *Europa Point*, the Southermoſt Land of all *Europee* V. is the *Barbary* Shore, *W.* is *Cauta* Bay, and a large City inhabited by the *Spaniards*, and is a ſtrong Garriſon where the King of *Spain* ſends all his State Priſoners, and about 3 Miles to the Weſtward is the Moors Camp where they Trade all Day and Fight all Night, *X.* is *Tangier Bay*, where is a large City inhabited by the *Moors* call'd the Royal City of *Tangier*, and a little to the Weſtward ſtood old *Tangier*, formerly in Poſſeſſion of the *Engliſh*, but now Demoliſh'd, T T T. is the Ships going up the Mediterranian, the Croſs ſhows the Points of the Compaſs.

This Mapp being an exact Deſcription of the Bay and Forts of *Gibraltar*, but the *Barbary* Shore is not Drawn to the true Diſtance by the Scale of Miles, by Reaſon of the Plate, but is done to give the Reader, who is not acquainted with the Place, the ſatisfaction of knowing what is meant by the *Streights Mouth*.

By Joseph Davies of Chester.

A Scale of 3 English Miles

1 2 3